ARTICLES
OF
VISITATION
AND
ENQUIRY

Concerning Matters Eccleſiaſtical, according to the Laws and Canons of the Church of ENGLAND.

EXHIBITED

To the Church-wardens and Sidemen of every Pariſh within the Dioceſs of

ROCHESTER.

By the Right Reverend Father in God, *IOHN* Lord Biſhop of *ROCHESTER*, at his Viſitation in the year of our Lord God, 1666.

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The Oath of the Church-wardens and Sidemen.

YOu ſhall ſwear that you ſhall diligently enquire, and faithfully preſent all ſuch perſons that of late have been, and now are within your Pariſh, that have offended againſt any of theſe Articles given you in charge, without favour or affection to any perſon whatſoever. So help you God and the Contents of the holy Goſpel.

Articles

Articles of Viſitation and Enquiries exhibited to the Church wardens and Sidemen in the ſeveral Pariſhes of the Dioceſs of *Rocheſter*, by the Right Reverend Father in God, *John* Lord Biſhop of *Rocheſter*, at his Viſitation in the Year of our Lord, 1666.

Inquiries about the Church *and* Church-Yard.

1. IS your Pariſh Church and Chancel decently kept for God honour? Are the Roofs, Walls, Pavements, and Windows well repaired? Are the ten Commandements, Lords Prayer, and the Creed drawn out in fair Letters in convenient places; and are the Kings Arms ſet up.

2. Have you made levies for the reparation of the Church, and other holy uſes? And are there any that refuſe to pay the proportion layd upon them.

 3. Have

3. Have you a Font of Stone decently covered, ſtanding towards the lower end of the Church for the Adminiſtration of Baptiſme? Have you a comely Table placed conveniently in Church, or Chancel for the uſe of the Lords Supper? Have you a comely Carpet of Silk, or good Stuff, for that holy Table; with a fair linnen Cloth to ſpread upon it in the time of Adminiſtration: And have you a handſome Cup of Silver for your VVine, and a cover of Silver to the ſame to put the Bread on? And have you one or more Flaggons of Pewter, or better mettal for that uſe.

4. Are your Reading-Desk and Pulpit conveniently ſet up and placed for the uſe of publick Prayer and Sermons? And hath your Pulpit a Cuſhion and comely covering before it.

5. Have you in your Church the Common-Prayer Books in *folio*, laſt ſet forth by Authority? and have you a Bible in *folio* fairly bound of King *James's* Tranſlation? Have you alſo a decent Surplice (one or more) for your Parſon, or Vicar, Curate, or Lecturer, to wear in the time of all publick Miniſtrations? and have you the Book of Homelies, and a Table of Marriage?

6. Are the Tombs, Monuments, Grave-ſtones of the Dead in your Church or Church-yard preſerved; and not ſuffered to be broken, taken down, or removed?

7. Have you a Book of Parchment, wherein be Regiſtred the Chriſtnings, Marriages, and Burials in your Pariſh? Have you a ſtrong Cheſt with three Locks, wherein to preſerve your Church Furniture, and a Box for Almes placed in a fit place for the Relief of the Poor.

8. Is the Houſe and Out-houſes of your Miniſter in good and ſufficient repair? Doth he preſerve the Gardens, Orchards, and Glebe belonging to him, without imbezling, changing, or any way damnifying them?

9. Is the Church-yard decently kept, and well fenced to keep out Beaſts?

10. Have you a Terrier of your Glebe Lands belonging to your Miniſter? Have any of the Glebe lands been changed for other lands; Or by whom is the ſaid Terrier brought into the Regiſtry as the Law requires?

11. Is your Church and Church-yard kept from profane or Lay uſe, free from Meetings of people for having any civil Courts or Military Employments; or keeping of VVakes about the ſame, accotding as the Canon in that caſe preſcribes? *Inqui-*

Inquiries about the Parson, Vicar, Curate, Lecturer.

1. HAve the above-named received Episcopal Ordination according to the Laws of the Kingdome?

2. Can you tell who did present your Parson or Vicar to his Benefice? Have you heard or known that he came Symoniacally? Was he inducted into his Benefice before sufficient witness? And did he read the nine and thirty Articles before or at Morning or Evening Prayer? And did he give his consent to them within one moneth after his Induction into the Benefice?

3. Hath he read the Book of Common Prayer as it is enjoyned by the late Act of Uniformity for publick Prayer, Administration of the Sacrament, &c. on some Sunday before the four and twentieth of *August*, 1662, or in case of impediment allowed by the Ordinary, hath he since performed the same? And did and doth he wear the Surplice while he performed that Office, & other Offices mentioned in that Common-Prayer-book?

4. Hath he published his consent unto the said book on some Sunday before the four and twentieth of *August* above named, or within the time limited by the said Act openly in time of Divine Service? And hath he subscribed to the Declaration as it is exprest in the 377th page of the abovenamed Statute, and manifested it to the Congregation openly?

5. Doth he preach a Sermon on every Sunday, or procure a Sermon then to be preached: or else sometime read one of the Homilies which the Church hath appointed?

6. Doth he read the Service appointed for the Fifth of *November*, thirtieth of *January*, twenty ninth of *May*? and doth he keep the yearly Perambulation and Rogation days before the Feast of our Lords Ascension.

7. If your Parson or Vicar keep a Curate? Is he of a godly Life, and sufficient Learning? Is he allowed by the *Bishop*? And can you tell whether the said Curate have a competent allowance according to the value of the Living.

5. Doth your Parish maintain a Lecturer? Is he a virtuous and Orthodox Divine? Is he Licensed by the *Bishop*? Doth he read

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the full Divine Service of Common Prayer once a moneth at the least, wearing a Surplice?

9. Doe you observe to your best understanding, that your Parson, Vicar, Lecturer, or Curate do preach the true word of God? or do they to their Judgment, having consulted with other grave Parishoners, vent dangerous opinions, derogating to the glory of God, and a pious life? Do they teach sedition, directly against his Majesty? his Laws and Government? or do you note that indirectly they cast out seditious glances against the Civil State or Government Ecclesiastical?

10. Doth your Minister celebrate the Lords Supper in the Church according to the Service of the Common-Prayer-book often every year? Doth he repulse them from it, that are scandalous by the sentence of the Laws? Doth he Baptize the Infants of his Parish according to the Service of the Common-Prayer, using the Cross; and upon warning given before, are they brought on Sundays or Holydays to the Church, with Godfathers & Godmothers; and upon lawful Summons doth he Baptize them at home in case of danger and necessity.

11. Doth he visit the sick at their houses when he is required upon lawful Summons? Doth he pray with them, exhort them to faith and repentance, and comfort them? Doth he give them the holy Communion, professing faith in Christ, and sorrow for their sins, if they require it? & doth he exhort them to Brotherly love, and works of Charity, if they be able to bequeath a Portion to pious uses?

12. Doth he prepare the young-men and Maidens of the Parish to be confirmed by the Bishops? Doth he marry none clandestinely, but at due hours in the Church, and that upon Banes thrice published on Sundays and Holidays, or License obtained from the Ordinary? And doth he bury the dead according to the book of Common-Prayer?

13. Is your Minister, Lecturer, Curate, a man of sober, chast, just, unblameable life? And spare not to present him or them that are not every way examples of Godliness.

14. Doth your Minister with the Church-wardens, take care duly every year to send in the names of all such in his Parish as have been Baptized, Married, Buried, Excommunicated, that they may be inrolled in the Bishops Registry.

15. Doth

15. Doth your Minister maintain peace with his Neighbours, and study to keep them in peace as much as in him lies? Doth he take diligent care to reduce all Sectaries, Separatists, and Refractory persons, to the obedience of the Doctrine and Government of this Church? And doth he offer himself, being an able learned man, to confer with Popish Recusants, to convert them, and to bring them into the bosom of this Church?

16. Doth your Minister Catechise young people each Sunday in the afternoon, as the Canon requires? Doth the Parents and Masters of Families within your Parish send their Children and Servants to be Catechised by him. Present those that refuse to do the same.

17. Doth your Minister give notice each Sunday before, what holiday doth ensue the week after, that the Parishioners having notice, may resort to Church upon those dayes? Doth he also Read the book of Canons twice every year openly in the Church upon Sundayes, as the Law requires?

18. Is your Minister a *non*-Resident in his Benefice, and how long hath he been so? hath he more Benefices than one? And doth he maintain an able Curate, Licensed, in the one, as the Law prescribes.

Inquiries about the Parishioners.

DO all your Parishioners of due age, resort the Divine Service and *S*ermons in your Church on *Sundays* and Holidays, and on *Wednesdays* and *Fridays* in *Lent*, according to Law?

2. Do they, or any of their Servants occupy them in bodily labours on Sundays or Holidays? Do they open their *S*hops, and sell Wares on those dayes? Or do Vintners, Victuallers, Inn-keepers or others, receive any into their houses to tipple and waste time idely on those dayes, except they be travellers, that are upon a journey in necessary occasions?

3. Do your Parishioners in time of Divine *S*ervice, *S*ermon,

or Homilies, behave themſelves reverently: Men and Youths with their Hats off, both *Sexes* giving due attention, none diſturbing holy *Duties* by talking, walking, removing, going out, or uſing any other offence? And do they kneel, ſtand up, make anſwers in time of Divine *Service*, as you find it appointed in the Rubricks of the Common-Prayer-book?

4. Are there any above the age of ſixteen years in your Pariſh, and eſpecially that have been examined by your Maſter in the Catechiſme before, that do not come to the Lords *Supper* to partake it reverently upon their knees three times in the year at the leaſt; the Feaſt of *Eaſter*, or the time thereabouts being one?

5. Are there any in your *Pariſh* that keep their *Children* unbaptized? Inquire diligently, and return the Parents or Governours names, the liſt of thoſe *Children* by ſuch names as you can learn.

6. *Do* all Women as have been ſafely deliver'd, come to the Church in due time to partake of the office of Thanksgiving, after the Orders of the *Common-Prayer*, and do ſuch women pay their accuſtomed Duties?

7. Do your *Pariſhioners* bring their dead to be decently buried after the Service of the Church, in their own *Pariſh* grounds? Or if they carry the Dead away to be buried in ſome other place, whether they be Lodgers or other ſtrangers? Do they firſt obtain leave of the Miniſter of the *Pariſh*, and have his Certificate?

8. Do any of your *Pariſh* uſually frequent other *Pariſh*-Churches, and abſent themſelves from their own.

9. Are there any that keep private Conventicles in their houſes or abroad, which are reſorted to by thoſe that are known or ſuſpected for *Sectaries*, or any way diſaffected to the preſent Government of the Church of *England*?

10. Do your Pariſhioners pay their Tythes, *Eaſter*-Offerings and accuſtomed duties, called Vicarage-Tythes, or by any other name, to their Miniſter?

11. Are there any Wills or Teſtaments of parſons dead in your Pariſh that are not provided by a lawful Judge? Or do you know or hear of any goods adminiſtred without due grant from the Ordinary?

12. VVhat Legacies have been given to Pious uſes in your *Pariſh*, which are utterly defrauded or not imployed to the right uſe according to the VVill of the Donor? 13. Are

13. Are your *Seats* and Pews in the Church decently kept? And are the Parishioners placed in them without offence and contention? have any built any *Seat* within the Church, without licence of the Ordinary. Present their names.

14 Are there any incestuous persons, or married persons within the degrees prohibited by Law? Are any Adulterers, Fornicators, either in Fact, or by common fame or report within your Parish? Any blasphemers, common swearers, Drunkards or Sorcerers, or Resorters to Witches or *Sorcerers*. Present the same.

Inquiries about Church-Officers *and other Persons.*

1. IF any *Stranger* come to preach in your Parish-Church or Chappel, on Sundays or Holidays, at Christnings, Funerals, Marriages, or any other occasion? Do the Church-wardens demand to see his Orders and License to preach, which he had from the Bishop: and if he can shew none, do you inhabit him from preaching, and enter the said License into the Registry, as the Law requires?

2. Do you suffer Excommunicated persons to be buried in any part of your Church or Church-yard?

3. Doth your Parish-Clerk or *Sexton*, (if you have any such) do their Duties obediently and diligently? Are they of honest life and conversation? Is your Parish-Clerk duely chosen by the Minister? And is he allowed by the Ordinary? Can he write and read? Doth he make Responsions to the Hymnes and other *Suffrages* of the Liturgy.

4. Is there a *School* Publick or private in your *Parish*? Is the *Schoolmaster* and Usher (if he have one) allowed by the *Bishop* or his Chancellor? Doth he breed his Schollars Religiously? and doth he teach them the Church Carechisme?

5. Have you any *Physitian*, Chirurgeon, or Midwife in your *Parish* that practise without Lycense?

6. Are your *Church*-wardens duly chosen in the week after *Easter-day*, and after the custom and manner of the *Parish*? Do they take upon them the execution of their Office without being first sworn by the Ordinary, as the Law requires? 7. Have

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7. Have the Church-wardens who are to ſurrender their places upon the Election of New ones, given up their Accompts to the Pariſhioners? and are their Accompts allowed by the Ordinary? Or have they falſifyed their truſt; wherein and how much, preſent the ſame.

8. Alſo have your Church-wardens been diligent to repair the Church, to keep it decent and comely? Have they preſerved the Font for Baptiſme, fit and handſome for that uſe? Likewiſe have they looked carefully to the Communion-Table, to the Plate, and all Utenſils belonging to it? And have they provided ſuch fine white Bread & good Wine as was fit for the Sacrament, according to advice taken with the Miniſter.

Let the Church-wardens and Sidemen diligently, with the advice of their Miniſter, what anſwers they will, and can give to all theſe particulars; ſetting the fear of God, and the good of his Church before their eyes.

FINIS.